

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of playing a poker game, comprising
~~including the steps of:~~
dealing hands to players;
during one or more betting rounds, requiring each player to check, call, raise or fold within a predetermined time;
for each player, indicating incremental elapsing of at least a portion of the predetermined time;
if a player does not check, call, raise or fold within the predetermined time: ~~[[;]]~~
~~declaring the player's hand dead~~ holding the player to a check if no bet exists in the betting round; or
~~holding the player to a check~~ declaring the player's hand dead if a bet exists in the betting round;
after all betting rounds are completed, determining betting by ranking remaining hands.

2. (Original) A method of playing a poker game according to claim 1, wherein the poker game is Texas Hold'em that includes four betting rounds per hand of play.

3. (Original) A method of playing a poker game according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the predetermined time is less than 60 seconds.

4. (Original) A method of playing a poker game according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined time is up to or around 15 seconds and the elapsing of the last 10 seconds are indicated in increments of seconds.

5. (Currently amended) A method of playing a poker game according to any ~~preceding claim~~ one of claims 1 to 4, wherein incremental elapsing of at least a portion of the predetermined time for individual players is indicated by at least one of audible counting or ~~and/or~~ a plurality of lights, ~~wherein each~~ corresponding ~~light corresponds to~~ a time increment.

6. (Original) A method of playing a poker game according to 5, wherein the lights are red LEDs.

7. (Original) A playing area for a poker game including:
at least one dealer station, a plurality of player stations and a corresponding plurality of pathways, each pathway extending from a central portion of the playing area towards a player station;

wherein each pathway includes a plurality of consecutive elements that individually indicate incremental elapsing of at least a portion of a predetermined time in which each player is required to check, call, raise or fold during one or more betting rounds of the poker game.

8. (Original) A playing area for a poker game according to claim 7, wherein the poker game is Texas Hold'em.

9. (Original) A playing area for a poker game according to claim 7 or 8, further including a clock for determining the predetermined time.

10. (Original) A playing area for a poker game according to any one claims 7 to 9, wherein the playing area is included in a gaming table.

11. (Original) A playing area for a poker game according to any one claims 7 to 10, wherein the playing area is represented in a video format for a video representation of a poker game.

12. (Original) A playing area for a poker game according to claim 11, wherein the video format is displayed in a video broadcast.

13. (Original) A playing area for a poker game according to claim 11, wherein the video format is displayed by a computer or over a network of computers.

Claims 14 and 15 (Cancelled).

16. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the lights are arranged to form pathways associated with individual players.

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- applying a betting limit pre-flop, wherein the betting limit corresponds to a predetermined pot limit; and
- removing the betting limit post-flop.